Purchase of equity by Al and IA

1157. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy to allow Indian Airlines and Air India to buy shares in private airlines;

(b) if so, the details of this policy;

(c) whether it is a fact that shareholding in other airlines would give Indian Airlines and Air India greater commercial spread in the airline sector; and *

(d) what steps Government are taking to ensure that the PSU airlines do not lose their market dominance in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) This would depend on the shareholding size.

(d) Both the Airlines continuously take measures to promote their business and to bring about qualitative improvemental and quantitative in their customer related services in order to improve their overall performance. Some of the measures taken in this direction are (i) Fleet Augmentation/ Renewal, (ii) cost Control and Economy measures, (iii) Marketing 70 Initiatives,
(iv) Promotional Schemes, (v) Inflight Initiatives, (vi) Service upgrades on ground and (vii) Improvements in Cabin Ambience. Both the airlines also plan to induct new aircraft in their fleet to maintain their market attractions.

Accident at Palam Airport

†1158. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a security officer of Sahara Airlines was overrun by a bus of Jet Airways near the runway of Palam airport'

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Govemrhent in this regard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.